

CONGENITAL DEFORMITIES. By Gavin C. Gordon, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Pp. vii + 128; figs. 113. 37s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1960.

BONE and joint tuberculosis in children has almost disappeared, and perhaps we may now expect a similar fall in the incidence of paralytic poliomyelitis. The relative importance of congenital deformities must therefore inevitably rise, and it may even be that, with a falling neonatal mortality, there will be a rise also in the absolute incidence of major congenital defects. Consequently any new book which by its title promises to advance our knowledge of the ætiology and therefore the treatment of congenital deformities must attract the attention of all orthopædic surgeons; and for this same reason I have found Mr. Gordon's monograph a great disappointment—and an even greater puzzle. It is basically the exposition of a very personal theory centred round a detailed and careful study of congenital dislocation of the hip, and leading on by connecting links of thought which are by no means clear to a discussion of the mechanics of McMurray's osteotomy, the treatment of acute osteomyelitis, the causation of Perthes' disease and slipped upper femoral epiphysis, and the ætiology of cerebral palsy. The book has a dream-like, will-o'-the-wisp quality which leads the reader on through a maze of fact and fancy, always with the promise of a clear conclusion and a practical application, and then—having got him deep into the wood—suddenly disappears. I cannot say that I enjoyed reading it.

G. W. B.

A LABORATORY HANDBOOK OF BLOOD TRANSFUSION TECHNIQUES. By A. Derek Farr, F.I.M.L.T., A.I.S.T. (Pp. xi + 135; figs. 34. 17s. 6d.) London: Heinemann Medical Books, 1961.

THIS book covers the non-serological aspects of transfusion work dealing with the preparation of crystalloid solutions and the processing of blood and its products for transfusion. It is intended to cover a gap in the literature on general transfusion work which is not adequately dealt with by existing works on blood group serology and requires the reader to have a sound knowledge of this subject. It is difficult to find a place for this book. It is felt that the absence of a section on serology greatly decreases its value to the student technologist to whom it is otherwise mainly directly. Again, although it may be of more interest to specialists in transfusion work, it can hardly be regarded as a comprehensive manual on this subject.

J. R.

CANCER OF THE RECTUM. Edited by Cuthbert E. Dukes, O.B.E., M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 303; figs. 82. 50s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1960.

THIS book is devoted to the ætiology, diagnosis, pathology, treatment, and results of cancer of the rectum. It is written by the experts on the subject. One must mention the names of Gabriel, Abel, Naunton Morgan, Lloyd Davies, Goligher, as well as Dukes, to show that the subject has been dealt with in a most comprehensive manner.

Dukes gives interesting reflections on the causation and control of rectal cancer as well as a very complete monograph on the pathology. The clinical diagnosis and the various operations are described in detail. The difficult problem of the malignant polyp is debated and a scheme is given for dealing with it, based both on published views and on experience at St. Mark's Hospital. The minor rôle of radiotherapy in the treatment of certain cases is also discussed. It is important to remember that we have progressed from the era when X-ray treatment had no effect to the phase where it has some effect.

The production is on high quality paper and the print and illustrations are excellent. In a book such as this with so many contributors, there is bound to be some overlap and also some minor differences of opinion. To the reader, however, this is not a drawback—rather it tends to be stimulating.

This book will fill a "need" in the British literature. It is not merely one for the specialist but one which could be read with profit by all surgeons. Certainly those concerned with the treatment of cancer of the rectum cannot afford to be without it.

E. W. M^CM.